(vi) Preservatives and Food additives.

(vii) Cosmetics e.g. Shampoo, Lipstics, Face Powder.

(viii) Paints.

(ix) Batteries.

(x) Lubricating Oils.

(xi) Packaging.

(xii) Aerosol.

(xiii) Pesticides, Insecticides, Biocides and Weedicides.

(xiv) Drugs

(xv) Electrical Goods/Electronic Goods.

(xvi) Wood substitutes.

(c) The parameters to be used to determine the criteria for issue of Ecomark label for various products are;

(i) Production process including source of raw material;

(ii) Case of natural resources;

(iii) Likely impact on the environment;

(iv) Energy conservation in the production of the product;

(v) Effect and extent of waste arising from the production process;

(vi) Disposal of the product and it's container;

(vii) Utilisation of waste and recycled materials ;

(viii) Suitability for recycling or packaging;

(ix) Biodegradability.

The issuing authority is the Bureau of Indian Standards.

(d) to (g). The presence of artificial colours and flavours which are deleterious to human health will be taken into account while prescribing the standards for preservatives and food additives for Environment Friendly Products.

Extinction of Wild Buffaloes

3438. DR. ASIM BALA:
KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the regions where wild buffalores are seen in the country;

(b) whether the wild buffaloes are on the verge of extinction; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect this endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Wild buffaloes are reported to be found in the Indravati National Park (Tiger Reserve), Pamed, Udanti and Bhairamgarh Wiflife Sanctuaries of Madhya Pradesh and the Kaziranga National Park, Manas Tiger Reserve and the Dibru-Saikhowa and Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuaries of Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps taken to protect the wild buffaloes include:

(1) The wild buffalo is included in Schedule I of the Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus giving the species maximum possible protection under the law.

(2) The present habitats of the wild buffalo in India are included in the protected area network comprising national parks and sanctuaries, including tiger reserves. The protected areas containing wild buffaloes are being financially assisted under the Centrally sponsored schemes "Assistance for the development of sanctuaries and national parks", "Project Tiger", and "Conservation of rhinos in Assam", for their development.

(3) With a view mainly to avoid possible inter-breeding between the wild buffaloes and the domestic stock, livestock grazing in all the protected areas in Assam containing wild buffaloes has been banned. Domestic cattle living around the protected areas of Assam is inoculated against contagious diseases.

(4) The Government of India has sponsored survey and research to establish the status of the wild buffalo and to identify genetically pure populations of the species to enable measures to be taken for their conservation.

[*Translation*]

Educationally Backward District of Gujarat

3439. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the educationally backward districts of Gujarat; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to eliminate their educational backwardness?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Educationally backward districts having less than national average rate of literacy in the State of Gujarat as per 1981 Census, are Kachchh, Banas Kantha, Panch Mahals and The Dangs.

(b) There are a number of programmes under implementation in the areas of Elementary Education and Adult Education. Further under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Operation Blackward, Teacher Education, Non-Formal Education and Adult Education Programmes, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for educational development . The State Government / U.T. Administrations have been advised to concentrate on backward districts.

Status of Central University to Kunwar Singh University

3440. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to grant Central University status to Kunwar Singh University in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). As a matter of policy, Central Government have considered it